

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the creation of an~~conducting a transaction using an electronic container ~~to conduct a transaction~~ comprising:
 - ~~creating an electronic version of an object useful in conducting the transaction;~~
 - ~~creating information about the object~~acquiring a data file, wherein the data file comprises content useful in conducting the transaction;
 - creating information about the data file;
 - associating the information about the ~~object~~data file with the ~~object~~data file;
 - assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction; ~~object to associate the object and the information about the object with the transaction; and~~
 - associating the data file and the information about the data file with the transaction identifier;
 - forming an electronic container by storing the ~~object~~data file and the information about the data file with other ~~objects~~data files and information about the other data files having the same unique transaction identifier; and

providing the electronic container to a participant of the transaction, wherein the participant may access the data file and other data files in accordance with access rules established in the information about the data file and the information about the other data files.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~the creation of~~conducting a transaction using an electronic container of claim 1 wherein the information about the ~~object~~data file comprises index information about the ~~object~~data file.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~the creation of~~conducting a transaction using an electronic container of claim 1 wherein the information about the ~~object~~data file comprises

coordinate location relating to fields within the objectdata file.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~the creation of~~ conducting a transaction using an electronic container of claim 1 wherein the information about the objectdata file comprises routing information.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~the creation of~~ conducting a transaction using an electronic container of claim 1 wherein the information about the objectdata file is conveyed in a graphical code that is associated with the ~~unique~~-transaction identifier .

6. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~the creation of~~ conducting a transaction using an electronic container of claim 1 further comprising binding the objectdata file to other objectsdata files wherein the information about the objectdata file comprises binding information that relates the objectdata file and each of the other objectsdata files to each other.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~the creation of~~ creating an electronic container to conduct a transaction comprising:

~~an objecta data file, wherein the data file comprises content useful in conducting the transaction comprising a unique transaction identifier containing information useful in conducting the transaction;~~

a workstation for inputting information about the objectdata file;

a an electronic container creator adapted for:

receiving the data file and the information about the data file;

associating the information about the objectdata file with the objectdata file; and

assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction;

associating the data file and the information about the data file with the transaction identifier;

~~associating the object~~storing the data file and the information about the data file with other objectsdata files and information about the other data files each having the same ~~unique~~-transaction identifier; and

sending the electronic container to a participant in the transaction, wherein the participant may access the data file and other data files in accordance with access rules established in the information about the data file and the information about the other data files.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) The system for the creation of an electronic container of claim 7 wherein the information about the ~~object~~data file comprises index information concerning the ~~object~~data file.

10. (Currently Amended) The system for the creation of an electronic container of claim 7 wherein the information about the ~~object~~data file comprises coordinate location of fields within the ~~object~~data file.

11. (Currently Amended) The system for the creation of an electronic container of claim 7 wherein the electronic container creator comprises instructions for viewing the ~~object~~data file and the information about the ~~object~~data file.

12. (Currently Amended) The system for the creation of an electronic container of claim 7 wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for associating instructions for retrieving and manipulating the ~~object~~data file using the same application that created the data file ~~object with the container~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for managing workflow within an organization comprising:

receiving an electronic container comprising ~~an object~~ a data file and information about the ~~object~~data file, wherein:

the ~~object~~data file and the information about the data file is associated with a unique transaction identifier and wherein the transaction identifier is unique to the transaction;

the data file comprises content useful in conducting the transaction;

~~the electronic container comprises objects having the same unique transaction~~

identifier;

extracting routing information associated with the objectdata file from the information about the objectdata file;

routing the objectdata file to a recipient designated in the routing information for processing the objectdata file, wherein the recipient may process the data file according to processing rules established in the information about the data file; and

receiving from the designated recipient a processed objectdata file.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for managing workflow within an organization of claim 13, wherein ~~receiving an electronic container comprising an object associated with a transaction comprises receiving an object~~ the data file selected from the group consisting of an image, a document, a database, a computer generated file, an audio file, a video file, and an electronic data interchange file.

15. Canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of managing workflow within an organization of claim 13, wherein the information about the objectdata file further comprises index information about the objectdata file.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of managing workflow within an organization of claim 16, wherein the index information about the objectdata file comprises information indicative of a field value, a field name, a field type, and a length value.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of managing workflow within an organization of claim 13, wherein the information about the objectdata file further comprises information indicative of an organizational structure of the electronic container.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of managing workflow within an organization of claim 18, wherein information indicative of an organizational structure of the electronic container comprises rules directed to determining the order of objectsdata files within the container.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of managing workflow within an organization of

claim 18, wherein the information about the ~~object~~data file indicative of an organizational structure of the electronic container comprises rules directed to determining whether the electronic container comprises all of the ~~objects~~data files associated with the transaction.

21. (New) The method of managing workflow within an organization of claim 17, wherein a processing rule is selected from the group consisting of a permission to view the data file, a permission to edit the data file, a permission to edit a selected field value, a permission to print a data file, a permission to approve the data file, and a permission to disapprove the data file.

22. (New) The method for managing workflow within an organization of claim 13, wherein the transaction is selected from the group consisting of a loan application, a sale of real property, a sale of goods, a sale of intangible personal property, a legal settlement, a contract for services, and a contract for insurance.

23. (New) The method for conducting a transaction of claim 1, wherein the data file and the other data files are selected from the group consisting of an image, a document, a database, a computer generated file, an audio file, a video file, and an electronic data interchange file.

24. (New) The method for conducting a transaction of claim 1, wherein the transaction is selected from the group consisting of a loan application, a sale of real property, a sale of goods, a sale of intangible personal property, a legal settlement, a contract for services, and a contract for insurance.

25. (New) The method for conducting a transaction of claim 1, wherein an access rule is selected from the group consisting of a permission to view the data file, a permission to view selected other data files, a permission to edit the data file, a permission to edit other data files, a permission to edit a selected field value, a permission to print a data file, a permission to print selected other data files, a permission to approve the data file, and a permission to disapprove the data file.

26. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the data file and the other data files are selected from the group consisting of an image, a document, a database, a computer generated file, an audio file, a video file, and an electronic data interchange file.

27. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the transaction is selected from the group

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consisting of a loan application, a sale of real property, a sale of goods, a sale of intangible personal property, a legal settlement, a contract for services, and a contract for insurance.

28. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein an access rule is selected from the group consisting of a permission to view the data file, a permission to view selected other data files, a permission to edit the data file, a permission to edit other data files, a permission to edit a selected field value, a permission to print a data file, a permission to print selected other data files, a permission to approve the data file, and a permission to disapprove the data file.